Bungling in Photo Identity Cards Scheme

1796. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) wehther bungling has been detected in the scheme to provide photo identity cards to voters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard in the States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its Report for the year 1997 (March) Vol. III has made certain observations about under utilization of funds allotted by the Central Government for implementation of the scheme of electors photo identity cards, excess/ avoidable expenditure in some States due to non-observance of instructions issued by the Election Commission, etc.

(c) A statement containing the status report on progress of electors photo identity cards as on 31.10.1998 is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Status Report on Progress of Electors Photo I-Cards

(As on 31.10.98)

	State/UT	Total Electors	No. of Electors with Defect-Free Identity Cards	Percentage of 3 To 2
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49140231	32544932	66.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	565278	363143	64.24
3.	Assam*	12575854	67479	0.54
4.	Bihar$	58438317	21681836	37.10
5.	Goa	878707	525575	59.81
6.	Gujarat	28771198	23177051	80.56
7.	Haryana	10967242	9513347	86.82
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3682024	2640398	73.7
9.	Karnataka£	33052802	24046881	72.75
10.	Kerala	21152899	11164440	52.78
11.	Madhya Pradesh$	43919010	27282131	62.12
12.	Maharashtra	56173068	43556045	77.53
13.	Manipur	1330299	1033733	77.70
14.	Meghalaya£	1157450	644140	55.65
15.	Mizoram@	441844	0	0
16.	Nagaland&	925831	560207	63.00
17.	Orissa	23373512	17976113	76.91
18.	Punjab	15310889	10681780	69.77
19.	Rajasthan£	29738496	18743095	63.03
20.	Sikkim	236321	200077	84.66
21.	Tamil Nadu	45577323	19755955	45.00
22.	Tripura	1725809	1203291	69.72
23.	Uttar Pradesh	101943066	53016879	52.01
24.	West Bengal£	46832298	34389847	73.43
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands£	231928	177810	76.67

	State/UT	Total Electors	No. of Electors with Defect-Free Identity Cards	Percentage of 3 To 2
26.	Chandigarh	533222	375406	70.4
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	95832	62950	65.69
28.	Daman & Diu	71931	45645	63.00
29.	NCT of Delhi	8313868	5705390	68.62
30.	Lakshadweep	36738	31032	84.47
31.	Pondicherry	665486	555675	83.50
32.	J & K	Not notified under Sec. 61A of the R.P. Act., 1951		
	ALL INDIA	597748773	361722284	60.51

NOTE:— $ 15.4.98, * 15.5.98, #15.8.98
& 30.8.98 £ 30.9.98

@ In Mizoram the work has not yet commenced.

Separate High Court for Tripura

1797. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been received for setting up a separate High Court for Tripura; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a separate High Court for Tripura in view of the demand and justification?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was agreed, in principle, that there should be separate High Courts for the States in the North-Eastern region, and pending Parliamentary legislation for the purpose, permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court be established in the Capitals of these States. A permanent Bench is yet to be established in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

Hydro and Wind Power Generation by National Thermal Power Corporation

1798. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation is planning to dieversify into hydro and wind power generation; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Corporation to achieve the objective?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been permitted by Ministry of Power to enter into the field of hydro power and non-conventional energy sources.

NTPC is identifying some greenfield hydro projects in Uttar Pradesh and other States.

NTPC is also in dialogue with State Governments and State Electricity Boards for taking over some existing hydro projects.

NTPC has engaged Consultants for identifying suitable sites for Wind Power.